

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

No. 10.

MAY 15, 1846.

Vol. VII.

OREGON AND CALIFORNIA.

Extracted from the Narrative of an Exploring Expedition to Oregon and California,
by Captain J. C. Fremont.

At noon on the 23rd, we descended into the valley of a principal fork of the Snake, a beautiful stream with a dense border of evergreen, principally of ash, ferns, blue wilds and four-foot ferns. It was fringed with the nests of many birds, which from the vast masses of dense pines around, seemed to have collected there. We continued during the afternoon our route along the river, which we passed with great ease, the horses being easily passed with the village, and the river flowing down on its banks. The evening light is a fine change, and the river is a fine sight. With clear vegetation, and large leaves willow. We gave to this stream the name of French River. It is about 2500 feet. Our road on the 24th lay over high smooth ridges, 3500 feet above the sea; buffalo in great numbers, absolutely covering the face of the country. At evening we encamped within a few miles of the Snake River, on a high peak, where the air was fragrant with the perfume of aromatic plants, which we saw for the last time, and which was now in bloom. On the 25th, the country was completely changed. Bare and dry, everything around us in the valley, the ground along which we were moving, and the plants peculiar to a mountain, and their appearance in abundance. A few miles further we crossed the mountains, where several streams were known to be the Snake River, but of the Snake, where the water was clear, and of a fine blue color, when we reached a high mountain, where the water was clear, and of a fine blue color. With the exception of one or two distant and detached groups of mountains of any kind, we were in a plain; and the features of the country assumed a more character, with which the broad river, stretching far and wide, among mountains, along the broken banks, was strangely in keeping. On the opposite side of the river, the mountains almost a continuous appearance, and fording the stream, we continued on our course among these ridges, and encamped late in the evening at a high point of very bad water, from which we drove away a herd of buffalo that were standing in and about it. Our encampment this evening was 3500 feet above the sea. We travelled now for several days through a broken and dry sandy region, about 4000 feet above the sea, where there were no running streams, and some small ones, constantly fed by currents of the melting of snow, which was only to be seen in small lakes that covered occasionally among the hills. The absence of them always brought pleasure to the camp, as around them were generally green ferns, which afforded abundant pasturage for our

animals; and here were usually collected herds of the buffalo, which now were scattered over all the country in countless numbers.

The soil of bare and hot sands supported a varied and exuberant growth of plants, which were much further advanced than we had previously found them, and whose showy bloom somewhat relieved the appearance of general sterility. Crossing the summit of an elevated and continuous range of rolling hills, on the afternoon of the 30th of June, we found ourselves overlooking a broad and misty valley, where, about ten miles distant, and 1000 feet below us, the South fork of the Platte was rolling magnificently along, swollen with the waters of the melting snows. It was in strong and refreshing contrast with the parched country from which we had just issued; and when, at night, the broad expanse of water grew indistinct, it almost seemed that we had pitched our tents on the shore of the sea.

Travelling along up the valley of the river, here 4000 feet above the sea, in the afternoon of July 1, we caught a far and uncertain view of a faint blue mass in the west, as the sun sank behind it; and from our camp in the morning, at the mouth of Bijou, Long's Peak and the neighbouring mountains stood out into the sky, grand and luminously white, covered to their bases by glittering snow.

On the evening of the 3rd, as we were journeying along the partially overflowed bottoms of the Platte, where our passage stirred up swarms of mosquitoes, we came unexpectedly upon an Indian, who was perched upon a bluff, curiously watching the movements of our caravan. He belonged to a village of Oglallah Sioux, who had lost all their animals in the severity of the preceding winter, and were now on their way up the Bijou fork to beg horses from the Arapahoes, who were hunting buffalo at the head of that river. Several came into our camp at noon; and, as they were hungry, as usual they were provided with buffalo meat, of which the hunters had brought in an abundant supply.

About noon on the 4th of July, we arrived at the fort, where Mr. St. Vrain received us with his customary kindness, and invited us to join him in a feast which had been prepared in honour of the day.

Our animals were very much worn out, and our stock of provisions entirely exhausted when we arrived at the fort; but I was disappointed in my hope of obtaining relief, as I found it in a very impoverished condition; and we were able to procure only a little unbolted Mexican flour, and some salt, with a few pounds of powder and lead.

As regarded provisions, it did not much matter in a country where rarely the day passed without seeing some kind of game, and where it was frequently abundant. It was a rare thing to lie down hungry, and we had already learned to think bread a luxury; but we could not proceed without animals, and our own were not capable of prosecuting the journey beyond the mountains without relief.

I had been informed that a large number of mules had recently arrived at Taos, from Upper California, and as our friend Mr. Maxwell was about to continue his journey to that place, where a portion of his family resided, I engaged him to purchase for me ten or twelve mules, with the understanding that he should pack them with provisions and other necessities, and meet me at the mouth of the *Fontaine-qui-bouit*, on the Arkansas river, to which point I would be led in the course of the survey.

Agreeably to his own request, and in the conviction that his habits of life and education had not qualified him to endure the hard life of a voyageur, I discharged here one of my party, Mr. Oscar Sarpy, having furnished him with arms and means of transportation to Fort Laramie, where he would be in the line of caravans returning to the States.

At daybreak, on the 6th of July, Maxwell was on his way to Taos; and a few hours after we also had recommenced our journey up the Platte, which was continuously timbered with cotton-wood and willow, on a generally sandy soil. Passing on the way the remains of two abandoned forts (one of which, however, was still in good condition), we reached in ten miles Fort Lancaster, the trading establishment of Mr. Lupton. His post was beginning to assume the appearance of a comfortable farm: stock, hogs, and cattle were ranging about on the prairie; there were different kinds of poultry; and there was the wreck of a promising garden, in which a considerable variety of vegetables had been in a flourishing condition, but

it had been almost entirely ruined by the recent high waters. I remained to spend with him an agreeable hour, and set off in a cold storm of rain, which was accompanied with violent thunder and lightning. We encamped immediately on the river, 16 miles from St. Vrain's. Several Arapahoes, on their way to the village which was encamped a few miles above us, passed by the camp in the course of the afternoon. Night set in stormy and cold, with heavy and continuous rain, which lasted until morning.

July 7.—We made, this morning, an early start, continuing to travel up the Platte; and in a few miles frequent bands of horses and mules, scattered for several miles round about, indicated our approach to the Arapaho village, which we found encamped in a beautiful bottom, and consisting of about 160 lodges. It appeared extremely populous, with a great number of children; a circumstance which indicated a regular supply of the means of subsistence. The chiefs, who were gathered together at the farther end of the village, received us (as probably strangers are always received to whom they desire to show respect or regard) by throwing their arms round our necks and embracing us.

It required some skill in horsemanship to keep the saddle during the performance of this ceremony, as our American horses exhibited for them the same fear they have for a bear or any other wild animal. Having few goods with me, I was only able to make them a meagre present, accounting for the poverty of the gift by explaining that my goods had been left with the wagons in charge of Mr. Fitzpatrick, who was well known to them as the White Head, or the Broken Hand. I saw here, as I had remarked in an Arapaho village the preceeding year, near the lodges of the chiefs, tall tripods of white poles supporting their spears and shields, which showed it to be a regular custom.—Though disappointed in obtaining the presents which had been evidently expected, they behaved very courteously, and after a little conversation I left them, and, continuing on up the river, halted at noon on the bluff, as the bottoms are almost inundated; continuing in the afternoon our route along the mountains, which were dark, misty, and shrouded—threatening a storm; the snow peaks sometimes glittering through the clouds beyond the first ridge.

We surprised a grizzly bear sauntering along the river, who raising himself upon his hind legs, took a deliberate survey of us; that did not appear very satisfactory to him, and he scrambled into the river and swam to the opposite side. We halted for the night a little above Cherry Creek; the evening cloudy, with many mosquitoes. Some indifferent observations placed the camp in latitude 39 deg. 43 min. 53 sec., and chronometric longitude 105 deg. 24 min. 34 sec.

July 8.—We continued to-day to travel up the Platte; the morning pleasant with a prospect of fairer weather. During the forenoon our way lay over a more broken country, with a gravelly and sandy surface; although the immediate bottom of the river was a good soil, of a dark sandy mould, resting upon a stratum of large pebbles, or rolled stones, as at Laramie fork. On our right, and apparently very near, but probably eight or ten miles distant, and two or three thousand feet above us, ran the first range of the mountains like a dark corniced line, in clear contrast with the great snowy chain which immediately beyond, rose glittering 5000 feet above them. We caught this morning a view of Pike's Peak; but it appeared for a moment only, as clouds rose early over the mountains, and shrouded them in mist and rain all the day. In the first range were visible, as at the Red Buttes on the North fork, very lofty escarpments of red rock. While travelling through this region, I remarked that always in the morning the lofty peaks were visible and bright, but very soon small white clouds began to settle around them—brewing thicker and darker as the day advanced, until the afternoon, when the thunder began to roll; and invariably at evening we had more or less of a thunder storm. At 11 o'clock, and 21 miles from St. Vrain's fort, we reached a point in this southern fork of the Platte, where the stream is divided into three forks: two of these (one of them being much the largest) issuing directly from the mountains on the west and forming, with the easternmost branch, a river of the plains. The elevation of this point is about 5,500 feet above the sea; this river falling 2,800 feet in a distance of 316 miles, to its junction with the North fork of the Platte. In this estimate, the elevation of the junction is assumed as given by our barometrical observations in 1842.

On the easternmost branch, up which we took our way, we first came among the pines growing on the top of a very high bank, and where we halted on it to noon; quaking asp was mixed with the cotton wood, and there were excellent grass and rushes for the animals.

During the morning there occurred many beautiful flowers, which we had not hitherto met. Among them, the common blue flowering flax made its appearance; and a tall and handsome species of *gilia*, with slender scarlet flowers, which appeared yesterday for the first time, was very frequent to-day.

We had found very little game since leaving the fort, and provisions began to get unpleasantly scant, as we had had no meat for several days; but towards sundown, when we had already made up our minds to sleep another night without supper, Lajeunesse had the good fortune to kill a fine deer, which he found feeding in a hollow near by; and as the rain began to fall, threatening an unpleasant night, we hurried to secure a comfortable camp in the timber.

To-night the camp fires, girdled with *appolas* of fine venison, looked cheerful in spite of the stormy weather.

July 9.—On account of the low state of our provisions and the scarcity of game, I determined to vary our route, and proceed several camps to the eastward, in the hope of falling in with buffalo. This route, along the dividing grounds between the south fork of the Platte and the Arkansas, would also afford some additional geographical information. This morning, therefore, we turned to the eastward, along the upper waters of the stream on which we had encamped, entering a country of picturesque and varied scenery, broken into rocky hills of singular shapes; little vallies, with pure crystal water here leaping swiftly along and there losing itself in the sands; green spots of luxuriant grass, flowers of all colours, and timber of all kinds—everything to give it a varied shape, except game. To one of these remarkably shaped hills, having on the summit a circular flat rock two or three hundred yards in circumference, some one gave the name of Poundcake, which it has been permitted to retain, as our hungry people seemed to think it a very agreeable comparison. In the afternoon a buffalo bull was killed, and we encamped on a small stream, near the road which runs from St. Vrain's fort to the Arkansas.

July 10.—Snow fell heavily on the mountains during the night, and Pike's peak this morning is luminous and grand, covered from the summit, as low down as we can see, with glittering white. Leaving the encampment at six o'clock, we continued our easterly course over a rolling country, near to the high ridges, which are generally rough and rocky, with a coarse conglomerate displayed in masses, and covered with pines. This rock is very friable, and it is undoubtedly from its decomposition that the prairies derive their sandy and gravelly formation. In six miles we crossed a headwater of the Kioway river, on which we found a strong fort and coral that had been built in the spring, and halted to noon on the principal branch of the river. During the morning our route led over a dark vegetable mould, mixed with sand and gravel, the characteristic plant being *esparcette* (*onobrychis sativa*), a species of clover which is much used in certain parts of Germany for pasturage of stock—principally hogs. It is sown on rocky waste ground, which would otherwise be useless, and grows very luxuriantly, requiring only a renewal of the seed about once in fifteen years. Its abundance here greatly adds to the pastoral value of this region. A species of *antennaria* in flower was very common along the line of road, and the creeks were timbered with willow and pine. We encamped at Bijou's fork, the water of which, unlike the clear streams we had previously crossed, is of a whitish colour, and the soil of the bottom a very hard tough clay. There was a prairie-dog village on the bottom, and in the endeavour to unearth one of the little animals, we laboured ineffectually in the tough clay until dark. After descending, with a slight inclination, until it had gone the depth of two feet, the hole suddenly turned at a sharp angle in another direction for one more foot in depth, when it again turned, taking an ascending direction to the next nearest hole. I have no doubt that all their little habitations communicate with each other. The greater part of the people were sick to-day, and I was inclined to attribute their indisposition to the meat of the bull which had been killed the previous day.

(Continued in our next.)

ADDRESS TO THE SUBSCRIBERS TO THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN
COMMERCIAL JOINT STOCK COMPANY.

As the time is nigh at hand for the holding of a General Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in the British Islands, simultaneously with which will be held the first meeting of the Joint Stock Company, I have thought it necessary to make a general statement of what has been done hitherto, as well as to offer a few hints for our future proceedings.

I trust that no apology will be necessary for so frequently recurring to the subject of the company, and I hope that no one will think that it is to the neglect of the great subject of salvation, or the rolling onward of the kingdom of God; for I have no feeling of my own, neither have I met with it in others, but that of the establishment of the company as a grand auxiliary to the work of the Lord in the last days, while at the same time a just and legal advantage will be enjoyed by every shareholder.

It is well known that at the last annual conference, the meeting came to the conclusion to form a company, by which their individual means and exertions might be combined, and the general good of the church be more effectually promoted. For this end a committee was formed for the purpose of drawing up a code of laws for the government of a society, to be called the "Mutual Benefit Association;" these laws received the sanction of the general meeting, and the thanks of the same were presented to those employed on the committee for their diligence on the occasion, having sat for about sixteen hours to complete their work. A general satisfaction was I believe felt on the occasion, and the orders of the general meeting were for the delegates, from different conferences, on their return to commence operations immediately, by the organization of committees, officers, &c. The directors residing in Liverpool were not slack in giving heed to these instructions themselves, but also so far as their limited means at the time enabled them, to assist others likewise. In consequence of their anxiety to proceed according to the orders of the general meeting, various receipts, scrip, &c., were printed for the use of the "*Mutual Benefit Association*." Being anxious, however to act wisely in all things, and in strict accordance with the laws of the land (which has ever been the practice of the church), they came to the conclusion to wait upon an attorney for instruction as to the legality of their proceedings, and also to ascertain what the society would be considered in point of law; when, to their great surprise, they found that a new Act had been passed during the last Session of Parliament, for the express purpose of regulating companies, and securing to shareholders their just rights, by the prevention of fraud and robbery on the part of the promoters, directors, or others. They also found that from this law, which appeared truly formidable to encounter, there was no escape, inasmuch as the definitions of the Act made the society which you intended to form, neither more nor less than a *Joint Stock Company*, as will be seen from the following extract from the Act itself,

"That the term '*Joint Stock Company*' shall comprehend,—Every Partnership whereof the Capital is divided, or agreed to be divided, into Shares, and so as to be transferable without the express consent of all the Copartners." Also,

"Every Partnership which at its formation, or by subsequent admission, shall consist of more than twenty-five members."

The directors now found that, in the general zeal for progression, they had done many things which they ought not to have done; however, they all concluded to carry out the intentions of the general meeting by the formation of the society strictly according to the requisition of the new Act, 7 and 8 Victoria, cap 110.

It is but justice, then, that you should become generally acquainted with the true position in which your servants, the directors, stood, and also with something of what they had to encounter.

Your servants also found that their every step, if not strictly in accordance with

the requisitions of the Act, was attended by fines and penalties; and, being utterly ignorant of such things as acts of parliament, earnestly requested their attorney, James Rowe, Esq., to become the legal solicitor for the company, and to take upon himself the responsibility of making the necessary returns both for "provisional and complete registration," whereby he would individually incur the responsibility alluded to; this, however, he declined, on the ground of his not being acquainted with the new Act, which had only been in his possession a few days. Upon your servants, therefore, devolved the necessity of making themselves acquainted with the different preliminary items of the Act, and of making the necessary returns required, through the instrumentality of the attorney.

It is but justice to myself and to the directors generally, that the subscribers should know something of these matters, as they will then have a more correct understanding of the workings of the same, and of what will have to be attended to in the future.

Before we could proceed to make public by way of prospectus, handbill, or advertisement, any intention or proposal for a company for any purpose within the meaning of the Act, the following particulars were to be attended to according to schedule (c), first.

The proposed name of the Company.

And, here, by the advice of our attorney, an alteration of the name and title of the company took place, which, I am of opinion, none of the subscribers will object to; for we feel assured that the *British and American Commercial Joint Stock Company* is much more appropriate, and more fully comprises the objects you had in view, than the *Mutual Benefit Association*. Though the question be frequently asked, "What is in a name?" I, as an individual, feel a peculiar satisfaction in the change, particularly since the providence of God, in directing the church to seek a new home on the Pacific, calls for the active exertions of such a company as the name implies.

Secondly. The Business or Purpose of the Company.

This we endeavoured to make as comprehensive as possible, so as to give us the privileges of trading as merchants between Great Britain and North and South America, to have the right of erecting buildings in one or both countries for the manufacture of the produce of either of them.

Thirdly. The names of its promoters, together with their respective occupations, places of business (if any), and places of residence.

After making the above returns we received our *Provisional Certificate*, after which, subject on failure to a fine of twenty pounds, the following particulars were to be returned within one month from the time we ascertained each individually, viz. The name of the street, square, or other place in which the provisional place of business or meeting shall be situate, &c.—The names of the members of the committee or other body acting in the formation of the company, their respective occupations, &c., together with a written consent on the part of every such member or promoter to become such, and also a written agreement on the part of such member or promoter, entered into with one or more persons as trustees for the said company, to take one or more shares in the proposed undertaking, which must be signed by the member or promoter whose agreement it purports to be.

The subscribers may remember that in the prospectus which accompanied the "Form of Application for Shares," the names of Hiram Clark and Capt. Dan Jones were omitted; this was in consequence of our not being able to obtain their signatures within the limited time—they were, therefore unavoidably excluded from the list of provisional directors.

The names of the officers of the company, their respective occupations, &c.; and also, before it shall be circulated or issued to the public, a copy of every prospectus or circular, handbill or advertisement, or other such document at any time addressed to the public or to the subscribers or others, relative to the formation or modification of such company. (This will account for our long silence at the commencement of our labours, and why we were not able to communicate through the pages of the *STAR* respecting our movements). And afterwards from time to time, until the complete registration of such company, a return of a copy of every addition to or change made in any of the above particulars.

It will also be remembered that the decision in public conference was, that the amount of shares should be ten shillings only. We found in this subject of much difficulty, in consequence of it being necessary previous to complete registration, that one-fourth in number of the persons who, at the date of the Deed had become subscribers, should sign the same, and that they at least should hold one-fourth of the maximum number of shares in the capital of the company. We found, therefore, that the expense of complete registration would be greatly increased by the increased number of signatures that would be required; it was therefore proposed that the shares should be five pounds each, and be made divisible; this was however, overruled to suit the prejudices of individuals who did not sufficiently understand the difficulties we had to contend with, and therefore the shares were permanently fixed at One Pound.

We now continued to labour in receiving applications, allotting shares, and in making the necessary returns of the subscribers from time to time. We also found it necessary that the Deed should be drawn up for complete registration, and previous to its being engrossed upon parchment, that an abstract of it should be returned for examination by counsel in London, and that the said Deed must necessarily embody, according to the Act, the following list of purposes, for which provision is required to be made before we could obtain a certificate of complete registration, viz. :—

I.—For the holding of Meetings, and the Proceedings thereat, viz :—

1. For the holding ordinary general meetings of the company, once at least in every year, at some appointed place and time.
2. For holding extraordinary meetings, either upon the convening of the directors of the company, or upon the requisition of not less than five shareholders.
3. For the adjournment of meetings.
4. For the advertisement and notification of meetings, and the business to be transacted thereat.
5. For defining the business which may be transacted at meetings, ordinary and extraordinary, or at adjournments thereof.
6. For the appointment of the chairman at any meeting of the company.
7. For ensuring that each shareholder shall have a vote; and where it is not provided that each shareholder is to have a vote in respect to each share, the appointment of the number of votes to be given by shareholders in respect of any number of shares held by them.
8. For enabling guardians, trustees, and committees to vote in respect of the interests of infants, lunatics, and idiots.
9. For ascertaining what shall be the majorities or numbers of votes requisite to carry all or any questions, and where a simple majority is to decide.
10. For prescribing the mode and form of the appointment of proxies to vote in the place of absent shareholders, and for limiting the number of proxies which may be held by any one person.
11. For determining questions where the votes are equally divided, whether by the casting vote of the chairman or otherwise.

II.—For the Direction of the Execution of the Affairs of the Company, and the Registration of its Proceedings, viz :—

12. For prescribing the maximum number of directors to be appointed; the number of shares, or amount of interest, by which they are to be qualified; the period for which they are to hold office, so that at least one-third of such directors, or the nearest number to one-third, shall retire annually, subject to re-election, if thought fit; and for the determination of the persons who shall so retire in each year.
13. For filling up vacancies in the office of the directors, as they occur; but not so as to enable the board of directors (if the filling up be assigned to them) to fill up such vacancy for a longer period than until the next general meeting of the company.
14. For the continuance in office of directors, in default of election of new directors.
15. For regulating the meetings of directors, the quorum thereof, the proceedings thereat, and the adjournment thereof.
16. For recording the attendances of directors, and reporting the same to the shareholders.
17. For the determination of questions, upon which the votes of the directors may be equally divided.

18. For the appointment of a person to take the chair of the directors, and for supplying any vacancy in the office of chairman.

19. For the appointment of the chairman of the directors at meetings, at which the permanent chairman may not be present.

20. For regulating the appointment by the directors of officers, clerk, and servants.

21. For recording the proceedings of directors.

22. For keeping and entering of minutes of such proceedings.

23. For ensuring the safe custody of the seal of the company, and for regulating the authority under which it is to be used.

24. For providing for the remuneration of the auditors of the accounts of the company.

25. For providing for the appointment of a secretary or clerk (if any) of the directors.

26. For providing for the receipt, custody, and issue of monies belonging to the company.

27. For providing for the keeping of books of accounts, and for periodically balancing the same.

28. For keeping the records and papers of the company.

29. For prescribing and regulating the duties and qualifications of officers.

30. For determining what books of accounts, books of registry, and other documents may be inspected by the shareholders of the company, and for regulating such inspection.

III.—*For the Distribution of the Capital of the Company into Shares, or for the Apportionment of the Interest in the property of the Company, viz. :*

31. For determining whether calls or instalments of payments (if any) are to be made in certain amounts and at fixed periods, and if so, what amounts and at what periods.

32. For determining whether, on failure to pay any instalments or calls, the share shall or shall not be forfeited, and if forfeited, whether, and on what conditions the property in such share may be recovered by the shareholder.

33. For determining whether, and under what circumstances, and on what conditions the capital of the company may be augmented, by the conversion of loans into capital or otherwise, or by the issue of new shares or otherwise.

34. For determining whether the amount of new capital shall or shall not be divided so as to allow such amount to be apportioned amongst the existing shareholders.

IV.—*For the borrowing of Money, viz. :*

35. For determining whether the company may borrow money, and if so, whether on bond or mortgage, or any other and what security.

36. For determining whether the directors may contract debts in conducting the affairs of the company, and if so, whether to any definite extent.

37. For determining whether and to what extent the directors may make or issue promissory notes.

38. For determining whether and to what extent the directors may accept bills of exchange.

I have made this long extract, not for the benefit of the directors or those who have been conversant with the subject before, but entirely for those who are ignorant, and have not seen much of the affair.

It will be at once perceived that our labours have been of a character that required our every attention, and however formidable the obstacles we had to meet with were, having passed the Rubicon, honour and the cause we had espoused compelled us to advance to the completion of our task. Our Deed is at present, whilst I write, in London for complete registration, and I anticipate, ere the pages of the present number of the *STAR* are filled, that I shall have the pleasure of announcing the return of your trusty messenger, Mr. Henry Ouerden, in triumph with the same. Having thus taken a retrospective view of what we have done, I shall endeavour to make a few remarks of what lies immediately before us.

In the first place we shall, so soon as completely registered, proceed to allot the shares for which we have applications on hand, after which, on calculating the expenses incurred in the formation of the company, we shall endeavour to form an estimate of the amount of a call upon each share to defray the same. We shall then proceed to print scrip to be issued to those who shall have entirely paid up their shares, as well as transfer scrip for shares that may be so disposed of. At our general meeting we shall have to take into consideration the best means for commencing operations in the way of business, in order to carry out into practical operation the intentions of the Company.

In making a few remarks upon this subject, the directors and subscribers will understand that I am by no means wishing to dictate, but merely to throw out a few hints. As there is every probability that we shall be able to secure a vessel as the property of the Company on advantageous terms, and as an expedition to the coast of California is contemplated to take place some time in the month of September next, much forethought will be necessary in order to make the most for the benefit of the Company in the voyage out and home. In the consideration of this subject the Company will have to avail themselves of the knowledge of practical men in the purchase of such goods, &c., as shall be most likely to be disposed of to the greatest advantage.

In my own position as president of the Company, I have been taught that my duties were to watch over the proceedings of all, and in an especial manner to direct the affairs of the same, so as to promote its interests to the best of my ability. Whether in the arduous task I have had to perform, I have done my duty or not, will remain to be seen at the general conference, one thing, however, I can fearlessly assert, whether my labours be appreciated or not, they have been given, such as they are, with an earnest desire for the good of the cause, and to prevent anything from transpiring by which we might be involved in difficulties, and incur the censure of violated British laws.

I rejoice much at the constantly growing interest that appears to be taken in the society in various parts of the kingdom, and we feel assured that the merits of the same need only to be fairly laid before the Saints at large to cause them to take a lively interest therein. To effect this, as yet we have not been able for want of men who were capable and at liberty to accomplish the same; however, we have much pleasure in stating that Mr. Samuel Downes the efficient advocate of the interests of the company in the Manchester conference, is at present on a mission in the Birmingham conference, and will return by way of Sheffield, to be present at the general conference on the last day of May.

We would invite the serious consideration of all in regard to the important subject that lies before us. We do not call for wild and visionary schemes, but for sound and judicious suggestions that will call for the concurrent assistance of all to effect the great object in view.

Trusting that we shall be prepared to meet with an eye single to the glory of God, and that his blessing will be upon us, and guide each and all in our cogitations and practical efforts, I remain your humble servant, for the welfare of the company.

THOMAS WARD, President.

ADDRESS TO THE SAINTS.

Liverpool, 30th April, 1848.

My dear Brethren and Sisters,—I feel through the medium of the STAR to address you on the subject of the Joint Stock Company, now being formed by the Saints of the most High God; and first, I shall write a few thoughts that may be useful to those of you who have not yet taken shares. Believing, and knowing as many of you do, that "THE KINGDOM" is set up, which shall never come to an end, even "that which the God of Heaven, who revealeth secrets, has set up in these latter days." In the days of the ten kings or kingdoms, and at the very time too when there is neither strength, adhesion, nor union existing among between any of these—the iron being mixed with fiery clay, and all being very brittle—allow me to ask you, will you permit the many of your brethren who are building up this kingdom to receive all the honour and reward, without your participating both in the labour

and the gain? You must not—you *will* not. Surely *now* you are not of them who think the GREAT I AM can and will himself do all things, while we inert behold. No, yours is "What saith my Father, and I shall do it." You hear and obey His commands, and these too, coming as they do from and through the officers he has appointed, instructed, and empowered to roll on "*the stone*," which is first to fall upon and break in pieces the ten toes or kingdoms—become a great mountain—fill the whole earth—neither be destroyed nor left to other people—break in pieces all other kingdoms and it shall stand for ever. Manifest your faith by your works. Say not "I am too poor, I cannot take even one share to pay for it in the time required." What! not able to pay one pound in eighteen months! Eaters not able to dispense with some article of food—say one ounce of tea less per week; drinkers not give up one pint and a half of beer, or one glass and a half of spirits; and ye that revel in the soothing plant, snuffers and smokers, as ye gaze upon the ascending fumes, think whether ye could not save an ounce and a half per week, or altogether obey "God's word of wisdom." If ye ask for what purpose all these sacrifices, I reply, that ye yourselves may become great and good. Gather with all Saints—and be prepared, through deeds and suffering to meet our coming Lord. Ye have made a covenant with our Father by sacrifice, a little more of this—endurance to the end—and ye shall be saved.

"What good will it do to me, or to the Saints?" asks one. "A sovereign from me can do but little." Perhaps in nothing connected with any kingdom is the common saying—"Union is power,"—more true than in money matters. I venture to assert that the laborious poor of Liverpool earn nearly the eighth of £1,000,000 weekly, and spend it apparently without many grand results; but suppose each of these would place one shilling per week into a common fund, then we should have about £8000 weekly, or nearly £400,000 per annum. How much would this accomplish, *if properly managed*, and how soon accumulate? Tell us, ye who know how soon a large snowball increases as you roll it onwards. Do ye not think by this co-operation the industrious poor of Liverpool would soon have their own ships bringing abundance of food from all countries, and luxuries too, shorten their hours of toil, and by this union and wisdom ultimately secure for themselves well earned ease and wealth? So intend the Saints to act. Ye who have not yet taken part in this matter, let us have your co-operation, let not fear dissuade you. I am bold to assert the Saints are as honest as the work they are engaged in is great. "Her judges are righteousness, her exactors, peace." At present I see no way for the Saints as a body to be gathered with their brethren, but by such an association and union of their funds: this will be productive of a result both great and most desirable.

And now to you who have taken shares I write. It is more than twelve months since we purposed to lay our funds together, by small weekly payments for eighteen months, till we had from ten to thirty thousand pounds in trade. Unexpectedly but necessarily there has been much delay—"by Act of Parliament!" We are again soon to be assembled in General Conference; let me entreat you to be diligent till then in paying up your instalments in your various branches, and this you may now do freely, as our Deed is in London, and while I write the Registration may be completed. It will manifest much wisdom in you if you are ready when the first call is made, to send it at once, and proceed laying past your small sums weekly, so that you may be duly prepared to meet the second call, and thus shall we be able—perhaps as early as September next—to commence as a trading company. I rejoice because of the negotiations already pending for the purchase of a ship to begin with. We soon shall have advanced a capital sufficient, *if you are faithful*, not only to take out many passengers to the wide and sunny fields of California, to meet our brethren who are marching thither; but also a large and good cargo of British manufactures. Already have we friends in Manchester and other parts of Lancashire, Yorkshire, Birmingham, and Scotland, willing and able to assist us in filling up our vessel with a profitable cargo, which we shall barter and sell at many ports on the way to, and all along the western shores of the new world—*nor shall we forget to minister to the necessities of the Saints*; and in return I shall again assert on much well-grounded confidence, we shall have a cargo from which a profit of from two to four thousand pounds shall be realized.

Shall we stop here? Verily, no; brethren, our ships shall whiten every sea, and visit every port, until there be no more sea, and until

"All kingdoms shall fall but the one

As fair as the moon and as clear as the sun."

Yea, our work, like the kingdom of which we are the happy subjects, shall roll on and become greater and greater throughout eternity. Grant it our Father—even so; and more than all we hope for; we ask it in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THOMAS D. BROWN.

THE GOSPEL.

We turn with something like a degree of pleasure from the contemplation of Joint Stock Companies, (though we would be understood as by no means wishing to depreciate their value) to offer a few reflections on the gospel. When we call to mind the state of darkness in which we were involved before the light of divine truth beamed upon our understandings, we never can feel sufficiently grateful for the privileges which it has been our lot to enjoy in connexion with the fulness of the everlasting gospel.

To find the mists of sectarianism swept away, and the pure light of truth flooding as it were our intelligence, brought with it joy and gladness which our natures had never previously known, and which we trust will never be eradicated from our remembrance.

How often had we read the word of God, and passed unheeded the most glorious principles of truth, yet because of the darkness of our understandings we experienced not the effect they were calculated to produce, and thus lost that unspeakable ecstasy resulting from a knowledge of the truth for ourselves. God in his infinite mercy saw fit to call his servant Joseph from the labours of the husbandman, and prepare and fit him to be a prophet unto the people, to usher in the great last dispensation of the gospel to the sons of men. The wise, the learned, and the rich in the things of this world raised the war-cry of persecution, and the servant of the Lord and his followers were compelled to flee from place to place before the fury of the bigots and pharisees of the day. But, notwithstanding all this, the truth sped; the honest hearted received it in love; its power was made manifest in their midst, and the spirit of the ancient martyrs animated the bosoms of those that *knew* the truth.

Accelerated by the violence of persecution the principles of eternal truth were carried from the place of their resuscitation, the land of Joseph, to distant climes; the shores of Britain were blessed with their sound, and their potency was soon found to have produced its legitimate effect among the inhabitants of these shores. Many, very many, have been the struggles through which the church has had to make its way until the present period. All that wickedness could devise has been put into operation to prevent its progress, but in vain. Apparent friends for a season, have become apostates and deadly enemies; pillage and murder have in vain exercised their ruthless efforts to stay its progress; but like the fabled Phoenix, from the ashes that surrounded her, the church has arisen from every diabolical attempt to overwhelm her, only more glorious in her appearance, and her votaries more enlightened and valiant in the glorious work of God.

Our beloved prophet, previous to his martyrdom, was happy in laying a permanent foundation for the church, and in having found men on whom he could confer the keys of the kingdom, and full power and authority to bear it off unto the ends of the earth. At his hands they received their endowments, and by the completion of the temple of the Lord, the twelve have been enabled to confer a like blessing upon many others. Thus the grand object in view has been obtained, and the power of God has again been imparted unto the sons of men, that the great work of the last days may be cut short in righteousness, and the gospel be preached as a witness that the end may come.

We are well aware that as the privileges of the Saints increase, so will their trials and difficulties be augmented, and many things perhaps surpassing far the troubles of the past, will rise up to try the faithfulness of the honest in heart. False prophets already seek to tread in the footsteps of our lamented president, and profess to be in possession of the mantle of prophetic power.

Let every one exercised by temptations resulting from such things fall back upon the first principles of eternal truth. Let them contemplate the designs and teachings of the prophet while in our midst, and let them support those upon whom he has placed the burden and care of the church, and all shall be well with them.

But especially let all that can, seek to gather with the people of God, that they may receive that endowment which, if faithful themselves, will enable them to overcome every adversary, and triumph in the day of trial.

We can truly say that to ourselves the principles of eternal truth are more and more refulgent with glory, and continue to show forth additional evidence of their beauty and power. Although difficulties and temptations in our own experience have greatly multiplied, as we expect them continually to do, until the great enemy is subdued, yet we are truly thankful to say that the principles we have received, though comparatively of no moment when weighed against the hidden mysteries, yet they have been pregnant with conviction, and redolent with glory, that has caused us to rejoice under every difficulty, and pray our Heavenly Father for strength to resist temptation and overcome every evil, until we are enabled to realize the full fruition, that shall bless the denizens of a renovated world.

Let the Saints universally remember that the grand principle of success lies in supporting the head; if every member of the church will uphold the authorities, it is manifest that they will be of one heart, and of one mind; but suppose that a portion are dissentient and do not uphold the head, then of course, they are out of place, inasmuch as they cannot be governed by the laws that emanate from the head. This is a principle that should never be forgotten by the Saints of God; by it only can the throne of God be upheld, by it only can his kingdom be established on earth. The twelve Apostles of the church are authorities in trust for the carrying onward of the work of the Lord, and for building up his kingdom; every one, therefore will see the necessity of upholding them by all means in their power, and it will be manifest to all that they who do not, yet profess a connexion with the church are out of place, and should take their departure in search of some head which they can acknowledge. Our laws and rules of government emanate from the authorities at the head of the church, and they who dispute that authority can in no wise be subjects of the same, nor can they have part or lot in the matter.

Let the Saints be wise, and understand, and mark well what spirit they are of, remembering that that which leadeth to good is of God, and he that is faithful and endureth unto the end shall be saved.

EDITOR.

COMMUNICATION FROM ORSON HYDE.

Nauvoo, April 5th, 1846.

Dear brother Ward,—I send you a few lines in addition to the revelation given through me. I am the only one left in charge here, the rest of the Twelve having gone to the west. Elder John E. Page is gone from the church; you will remember that he did not perform his mission to Jerusalem with me. This is the reason of his apostacy, and also violating the law of the church and incurring that penalty which says, "He shall deny the faith, and shall not have the Spirit."

These followers of Mr. Strang tell the most horrid lies that men ever did tell in creation. When they are here, in our city, they will say that many hundreds have joined them in some other parts, and when they go to some other parts, they will say that many thousands have fallen in with Mr. Strang in Nauvoo, when the plain fact is, that I do not know of ten persons in Nauvoo that have joined Mr. Strang. There are none who join him except a few Rigdonites, and some few others who are restless and unruly spirits that would disgrace almost any society. Strangism is but a second and revised edition of Rigdonism.

After Mr. Page was disfellowshipped, he left Nauvoo and went away about 120 miles, and met a company of Saints coming from Canada. He told them that he

was one of the Twelve sent by the council to inform them that they must turn about and go to Voree, (Mr. Strang's place of gathering) in the territory of Wisconsin. They could not believe this, but sent a messenger to us to know the truth of the matter, yet some were deceived by him. I only relate this to you to give you a specimen of their low and wicked course.

Every thing in relation to this church goes well; many are coming to Nauvoo and being baptized daily. The Saints are selling out and removing west; hundreds of families are coming here from other States, and fitting out for a campaign in the wilderness. It is a great work, God can only tell when it will end, if any end it has. It will gather all things in one. Some of the old mobocrats in Mo, have come to the camp as they passed along, and have given satisfaction, and multitudes are joining the camp of Israel. May the great God enlarge our borders, roll the wheels of his empire through the confused ranks of Babel's broken legions, and exalt on high the golden sceptre of truth, that every eye may see, and every honest heart be glad. Be faithful, dear friends, over a few things, and God will make you rulers over many.

May heaven bless you in Old England, and soon bless you in California, is the earnest wish of your brother in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

ORSON HYDE.

P.S.—Brother Stratton has arrived here, and brother Woodruff, his family, and friends, are daily expected.

"HE THAT HATH EARS TO HEAR, LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAITH UNTO THE CHURCHES."

In my meditations, this morning, the Spirit of the Lord came upon me, and I was moved to write: and being grieved in my spirit on account of false pretences by evil designing persons to gain power, and lead away the flock of God; It whispered me and said:

Evil men, ambitious of power, must needs arise among you, and they shall be led by their own self-will and not by me. Yet they are instruments in my hands, and are permitted to try my people, and to collect from among them those who are not the elect, and such as are unworthy of eternal life. Grieve not after them, neither mourn nor be alarmed. My people know my voice and also the voice of my spirit, and a stranger they will not follow; therefore such as follow strangers are not my people. Behold James J. Strang hath cursed my people by his own spirit and not by mine. Never at any time have I appointed that wicked man to lead my people, neither by my own voice, nor by the voice of my servant Joseph Smith, neither by the voice of mine angel: but he hath sought to deceive and Satan helpeth him; but before of old was he one that was ordained to gather the tares of the field, and mine angels have chosen him to do it because he was a wicked man, even as Judas was chosen to betray his Lord. But his spirit and ambition shall soon fall him, and then shall he be called to judgment and receive that portion which is his mete, and his treacherous followers, who have forsaken the counsel of their brethren and turned from the covenants of their God, and have cast asunder the tenderest ties, must drink from a bitter cup.

Let no man who putteth his trust in me be troubled about his rights. The worthy shall have their rights and no power can prevent it, for I will give them the hearts of my people, and their voice is my voice, even as my voice is the voice of my father; and what they bind on earth I will bind in heaven. But the unworthy have no rights except these, repentance or condemnation. If they act upon the former, behold they are justified, but if not, they must suffer the consequences of the latter.

By this you may know the unworthy among my people: for whosoever they reject, the same are rejected of me. And woe to such as shall follow him who hath been rejected by my people. If my people sin I will correct and chasten them because I love them, yet I will not reject them, neither give my kingdom to other people, for behold the end draweth nigh, and judgement will I pour out upon your oppressors and upon those who accuse you to hide their own iniquity and their shame, and to get power for unholy purposes and not for the building up of my kingdom. Let such beware lest they fall by the hand of the destroyer, whose arrows are plague and pestilence, before their designs are accomplished.

Let my saints gather up with all consistent speed and remove westward, except such as are counselled to tarry and must needs remain to settle their business according to the counsel of my servant JOSEPH SMITH, in the day that he was with you in the flesh, and also according to the counsel of my servants, the Twelve whom I have chosen, and who have abode in me.

Let there be no more disputes or contentions among you about doctrine or principle, neither who shall be greatest, but hearken to those things which I have spoken unto you, and which have before been given and you shall rest in my kingdom, and have glory and honour for ever and ever—Yea! Saith the Spirit, and the Spirit is truth, and the truth abideth for ever: Amen.

Latter-day Saints' Millennial Star.

MAY 15, 1846.

In the writings of the apostle Peter, 2 Epistle, iii chap., we find a reason deduced from the fact of the coming of the Lord, and the dissolution of the present state of things, which is the following: "Seeing therefore that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in holy conversation and godliness." If the apostle at the comparatively remote period at which he wrote his epistle, could make use of the coming of the Lord in order to influence the character and conduct of the Saints in those days, how much more reason have we, in these last days to reflect upon so important a subject, connected as we are with a dispensation of the gospel given for the express purpose of ushering in the great and stupendous events that are nigh at hand. A connexion with the church and the kingdom of God in the last days has no counterpart on earth. It calls for a complete surrender of the entire man to the promotion of the cause which he has espoused. This will appear obvious from a few reflections upon the subject.

In the first place, the terms of enlistment (if we may so term it), into the army of God, are of a very peculiar character. On obedience to the great law of adoption for the remission of sins, there is attached the promise of the gift of the Holy Ghost. How little appreciated indeed, we fear is this inestimable gift. Through the loss of it, the world has been flooded with iniquity, and the powers of darkness have reigned supreme; and only by its restoration to the human family can the world be redeemed from the bondage of Satan, and be made a fit habitation for them that are sanctified.

Here then, the faithful receive a power, an influence to give them light and intelligence, and all necessary knowledge to progress onward in their career, to endure faithful unto the end, and eventually receive that reward which remaineth for the people of God.

Well might the apostle Paul, in writing to Timothy, say "No man that warreth, entangleth himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." It is then an utter impossibility that a Saint of the last days, can continue under the influence of those feelings and sentiments by which he had been previously governed. A new life, new hopes and aspirations, and fresh vigour are given, and he becomes indeed truly a "new man in Christ Jesus."

In what estimation does he now look upon the world? Short indeed, will be his experience before he will feel the bitterness of its hostility; beforetime he, as it were, felt one with it; but the delusion is past, he has crossed the threshold of heavenly intelligence, and his soul aspires after more copious outpourings of the spirit of truth. Henceforth therefore must there necessarily be a radical and entire change of purpose and conduct. He has now begun to learn something of *existence*, and of *progression in existence*, to see the true end of his being, and he longs to be perfect, even as his Father who is in heaven is perfect.

Formerly he was guided by the maxims of the world, or the dictates of his own mind; now he has found the only true channel of intelligence from the fountain of eternal truth; and that channel is the priesthood after the order of the Son of God, which he has chosen as the only medium of communication with the children

of men. Formerly there might have been in his character a self-will that brooked not the teachings of others, and a consequent deportment manifesting pride, and a considerable degree of self-importance; but how great the change now in this respect. The light of truth having glanced upon his intelligence, has at once taught him his littleness, his ignorance and unworthiness; and if he be a Saint indeed, humility will be the striking characteristic of his disposition; a desire and willingness to seek for instruction and counsel, and a spirit of gratitude and thankfulness for every fresh acquisition of truth. These will be something of the feelings, desires, and manifestations of the true Saint of God.

Perhaps before his knowledge of the truth, he had an interest in the measures and movements of different nations and kingdoms, and their various policy in relation to each other; but he beholds them now under a different aspect; convulsions may arise, and kingdoms may be overthrown, but it is no longer a mystery to him, he has become connected with a kingdom that shall never come to an end; and finds himself placed, as it were, on an eminence from whence he can look calmly down upon the transactions, alike of individuals or nations, undisturbed by the turmoil beneath him, save as he may be enabled to deduce from them lessons of humility to direct him to the true source of wisdom and intelligence.

What manner of people then, indeed, ought the Saints of the last days to be? Such as are looking for the coming of the Lord, such as are seeking to know God, and obey the gospel of Jesus Christ. Men that have laid aside their pride of heart, their self-opinions, and have become sufficiently humble to sit at the feet of the servants of the Lord, that through the teachings of the holy priesthood, they may become wise unto salvation.

We can easily suppose how evil, and consequent anarchy and rebellion, might be introduced amongst any society, however perfect. So long as the individuals thereof feel their dependence upon the great Head by which they are governed, so long will they uphold that Head, and be in harmony with each other; but on the contrary, let one suppose that he has got sufficient wisdom and intelligence in himself, and that it is in vain for him to seek it elsewhere, then comes the spirit of rebellion, confusion arises, and the disorder of hell becomes substituted for the harmony of heaven.

This a true and grand principle, the importance of which we have hinted at elsewhere, and which cannot be too thoroughly impressed upon the minds of our readers; for the continued acknowledgment of the authorities and order of the kingdom will be one great and distinguishing characteristic of the Saints of the last days.

As the people of the Lord continue to receive instruction, they will be manifesting an increasing desire for more, hence arises the singular phenomenon in the eyes of the world of an entire people seeking to leave their homes, the land of their fathers, and the scenes with which they have been associated from their earliest infancy, to find a resting place in the wilderness; there to encounter the unavoidable difficulties that settlers in a foreign land must meet with, but which will not deter the true-hearted people of God, for their object is to learn the will of God, and avail themselves of those privileges, by which, they themselves may be saved, and also become saviours upon Mount Zion unto others.

Such, then, will be some of the distinguishing features of the people of the Lord, who are anticipating his coming. Their conversation will be of the things of the kingdom of God, and their conduct will be such as shall not be grievous unto that Spirit by which they are sealed unto the day of their redemption.

We did anticipate, before closing the pages of the present STAR, to be able to announce the complete registration of the Joint Stock Company; it appears, however, from the multiplicity of business of a similar kind, that the delay of a few days will be unavoidable. All appears to be perfectly right with our deed.

Our general conference will take place at the time before-mentioned, commencing on the last day of May, in Manchester, and will be held in the same place as on several former occasions, viz:—the Hall of Science. It will be of great advantage if the Directors of the Company could be in Liverpool, at least, a day or two previous, in order that arrangements might be made in council for the better conducting of our proceedings in conference.

We have just received the letter of O. Hyde, and stop the press for its insertion.